

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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O R 202055Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5437
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3044

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR, SREF
SUBJECT MINISTER OF INTERIOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS

1. AMBASSADOR SAW MINISTER OF INTERIOR
HARGUINDEGUY TODAY APRIL 20 AND DISCUSSED
OPERATION OF RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM, AND A
NUMBER OF INDIVIAUAL HUMAN RIGHTS CASES OF
PARTICULAR INTEREST TO US.

2. ON RIGHT OF OPTION HARGUINDEGUY UNDERSTOOD
PROBLEMS IMPOSED ON US BY ARGENTINE PROCEDURES
FOR HANDLING THE PROGRAM. AMBASSADOR TOLD
HIM WE MUST GO THROUGH COMPLICATED AND TIME
CONSUMING PROCESS OF ASSURING OURSELVES
SOMEONE WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE INTO THE
UNITED STATES BEFORE ISSUING "RIGHT OF OPTION
CERTIFICATE" -- KNOWING ALL THE WHILE THAT MANY
OF THE CASES WE PROCESS WILL NOT BE APPROVED
FOR AN "EXIT OPTION" BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.
HARGUINDEGUY SAID HE WILL EXPLAIN THIS PROBLEM TO THE
PRESIDENT, AND TOGETHER THEY WILL TRY TO FIND SOME
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MIDDLE GROUND OF COOPERATION. AMBASSADOR AND HARGUINDEGUY
DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY OF GOAS GIVING US INFORMALLY LISTS
OF PERSONS WHO PROBABLY WILL BE APPROVED FOR RELEASE.
(COMMENT: IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION AN EMBOFF WAS TOLD
THAT GOA HAS RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 198 PETITIONS UNDER
SEPTEMBER RIGHT OF OPTION PROCEDURES.)

3. IN THE SAME CONNECTION HARGUINDEGUY ASSURED AMBASSADOR HE WILL SEE TO IT THAT POLICE CERTIFICATES ("CARTAS DE ANTECEDENTES") ARE MADE AVAILABLE TO APPLICANTS. (COMMENT: FOR ARGENTINE BUREAUCRATIC REASONS THESE HAVE NOT BEEN AVAILABLE TO PERSON HELD UNDER "PODER EJECUTIVO NACIONAL" -- PEN.)

4. AMBASSADOR RAISED ROLE HERE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION (ICEM). HARGUINDEGUY SAID THAT SINCE ICEM IS HERE ALREADY HE SEES NO REASON THE GROUP CANNOT BEGIN HELPING IN THE ARGENTINE PEN PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT ICEM FEELS IT NEEDS A NEW CHARTER. HARGUINDEGUY SAID HE WOULD STUDY RULES BY WHICH ICEM ALREADY EXISTS HERE AND GET BACK IN TOUCH. (COMMENT: ICEMS ROLE IN ARGENTINA UP TO NOW HAS BEEN SETTLING FOREIGN IMMIGRANTS HERE, NOT FACILITATING ARGENTINES DEPARTURE.)

5. AMBASSADOR ALSO MENTIONED POSSIBILITY THAT A REGIONAL US IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION OFFICER MIGHT BE STATIONED HERE TO EXPEDITE OUR PAROLE PROCEDURES IN CONNECTION WITH "RIGHT OF OPTIONZ RELEASEES. HARGUINDEGUY WAS REALLY DELIGHTED AT THE PROSPECT, SAID HE THOUGHT IT COULD SPED MATTERS CONSIDERABLY AND ASKED HOW SOON SUCH AN OFFICER COULD START WORK.

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6. HARGUINDEGUY ALSO SAID GOA WOULD SHORTLY PUBLISH NEW PEN PRISONER LISTS IN AN EFFORT TO FINISH UP THIS PROJECT.

7. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT TIMERMAN RELEASE TO HOUSE ARREST AND RELEASE OF ALEJANDRO DEUTSCH. HE ASKED ABOUT THE TWO LILIANAS-- VOGLER AND DEUTSCH. HARGUINDEGUY SEEMED GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC SOMETHING COULD BE DONE FOR LILIANA DEUTSCH BUT HAD LESS TO SAY ABOUT VOGLER. ON ALFREDO BRAVO, HARGUINDEGUY SAID HE HAD ALREADY WRITTEN A RELEASE DECREE THAT NEEDED ONLY THE SIGNATURE OF THE COMMANDER OF THE ARMED FORCES (HARGUINDEGUY COULD EITHER BE REFERRING HERE TO VIDELA OR TO THE THREE JUNTA MEMBERS) TO BECOME EFFECTIVE. (COMMENT: HARGUINDEGUY DID NOT SAY HOW GOVERNMENT WOULD INSURE BRAVOS CONTINUED SAFETY AFTER LEAVING JAIL.)

8. FOR SANTIAGO. GRATEFUL FOR YOUR BRIEFING ICEM REPRESENTATIVE KOZAK ON RIGHT OF OPTION ASPECTS OF AMBASSADORS TALK. WE HESITATE SUGGESTING HE COME NOW TO PRESENT ICEMS CASE TO GOA (SOMETHING WE DISCUSSED WITH KOZAK AND JARRALL WHEN THEY WERE HERE EARLIER THIS MONTH), BUT IF WE GET ANY NEW SIGNAL OF ICEM

ACCEPTABILITY WE MAY ASK FOR A FAST RESPONSE.

CASTRO

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